Shortage of Aluminium

1797. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pelased to state:

(a) whether Govenment have recently denied about any scarcity of Aluminium in the country;

(b) whether despite the denial of any scarcity of Aluminium, it is not supplied to manufacturers- and

(c) the further steps Government propose to take to make adequate supply of Aluminium to the manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) to (c) The production and availability of primary aluminium during 1988—89 as compared (with 1987—88 is as under:—

(In '000 *tons)*

		1987-88	1988-S9	Increae
Production	TOTAL : Imports by MMTC.	148	190 170 estimate	+42 +40
April to October November to March	GRAND TOTAL :	130		
		278	360	+82 -
		55		55
		55		
		333	360	27

During 1988—89, the demand is estim-ted around 360,000 tonnes against the domestic production is expected to be 360,000 tonnes including estimated production of 80,000 tonnes by N ional Aluminium Company.

Aluminium has been placed o$_n$ Open General License (OGL) with only marg-'nui level of customs duty of Rs. 500 per tonne.

Further the custom, duty on import of aluminium scrap, already on OGL, also been reduced from 95$ad valo- to 35/ ad valerem.

Foreign off-shore patrol vessel

1798. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOW-DHURY; Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a biggest anti-poaching operation in recent years, an off-shore patrol vessel of Indian Coastal Guard intercepted and seized six sophisticated Taiwanese fishing trawler-, which were poaching off the Gujarat Coast during the third week of October, 1988;

lb) if so, what are the details thereof:

(c) whether it i$_s$ also a fact that a number of other foreign countries are